

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A guided missile having an airframe ~~with a tip, a seeker head arranged in said tip and window means located in front of said seeker head for closing said airframe at said tip to protect said seeker head,~~ said airframe defining a longitudinal axis, and a jettisonable protective cap ~~means being attached to a leading end of said airframe in front of said window means~~ for protection of said ~~window means,~~ operative components arranged in said airframe, wherein said protective cap ~~means~~ is longitudinally divided into at least two parts which, together, extend circumferentially through an angle of 360° about said longitudinal axis, each said part extending through an angle of not more than 180°, said at least two parts being ~~interconnected~~ interconnectable by connecting means, ~~means being provided for releasing said connecting means; and~~ said two parts together and said airframe defining a form-fitting interlocking structure along the airframe-side edge of said protective cap ~~means only, when upon said two parts are being in an interconnected[.] condition, said protective cap having an opening located substantially on said longitudinal axis, said opening facilitating a dynamic pressure to be built up within said protective cap for a sideways detachment from said guided missile coupled by a release of said form-fitting interlocking structure responsive to the build up of said dynamic pressure during flight of said guided missile.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A guided missile as claimed in claim 1, wherein said protecting cap ~~means comprise~~ comprises a conical cap divided along at least two cone generatrices.

3. (Previously Presented) A guided missile as claimed in claim 1, wherein said releasing means comprise pyrotechnic releasing means.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A guided missile as claimed in claim [4] 1, comprising jettisonable closure means attached to said protective cap for closing said opening, and closure member releasing means for releasing said closure means.

6. (Currently Amended) A guided missile as claimed in claim 5, wherein said protective cap is frusto-conical comprising at least two circumferentially extending parts ~~and~~ each having a front edge and a rear edge, said rear edge being said adjoining the airframe[-side] front edge, and said jettisonable closure means comprise means for engaging said front edge, ~~thereby and~~ forming a part of said connecting means, whereby, when said closure means is jettisoned by said closure member releasing means, said dynamic pressure causes said at least two circumferentially extending parts to part sidewise, thereby facilitating release of said form-fitting interlocking structure.

7. (Previously Presented) A guided missile as claimed in claim 5, wherein said closure member releasing means comprise pyrotechnic releasing means.